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PROD-5

30 March 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT : Meeting Problems of the Environment
-- The Intelligence Role

1. Man has made great strides towards destroying or permanently harming his natural environment. That fact is increasingly a matter of importance and urgency to the nation's security and of concern to officials of the U. S. Government. This concern will be reflected in the continuing development of U. S. policies, both foreign and domestic, aimed at monitoring and curbing destructive environmental practices. The U. S. Government is involved in environmental problems with other nations in numerous bilateral relationships, in the NATO Committee on the Challenges of Modern Society, the Environmental Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, and several U. N. committees and specialized agencies. Supporting U. S. delegations in such forums would appear to be primarily functions of the Department of State and various non-USIB departments such as Interior and Agriculture.

2. However, the practices, policies and plans of foreign governments with respect to pollution control and environmental management have a bearing on their national economic and military capabilities, on their political stability, and on their foreign policies.

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Examples are: "The High Dam -- Ecological Fact and Fiction", an IM prepared in March 1971; "The Environmental Crisis in [redacted] scheduled for a CIWR piece in April; "Egypt: Economic Impact of the Aswan High Dam", an IM scheduled for April; and "Ghana's Volta River Project: A Limited Success", an IM scheduled for the end of March. Other projects are in formative stages, and qualified analysts are coming forth in increasing numbers with proposals for studies related to foreign environmental matters.

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3. There appears to be no rationalized statement of the Agency's responsibilities and role in following and reporting on environmental problems abroad. I recommend that the Director create a special study group, drawn from all directorates, to inventory and assess Agency resources and capabilities to collect and report on foreign environmental matters, and to recommend, for his consideration, appropriate Agency guidelines.



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